# **EXHIBIT A**

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 2 of 24
RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/15/202

SUPREME COURT FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK NEW YORK COUNTY

ILISE HEITZNER, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Index No.:

Plaintiff,

-v-

**SUMMONS** 

NORTHWELL HEALTH, INC. and PERRY JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.,

Defendants.

#### TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Class Action Complaint (the "Complaint") in this action and to serve a copy of your answer or, if the Complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on plaintiff's attorneys within twenty (20) days after service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service; or within thirty (30) days after completion of service if the service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the state; or if service of the summons is made by mail pursuant to CPLR §312-a, you must complete and mail or deliver the acknowledgement of receipt to the undersigned within thirty (30) days from date of receipt and serve an answer within twenty (20) days after the signed acknowledgement is mailed or delivered to the undersigned, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Plaintiff designates New York County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the place of business of one or more of the defendants.

INDEX NO. 161199/2023

Dated: New York, New York November 15, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

### **NEWMAN FERRARA LLP**

/s/ Jeffrey M. Norton Jeffrey M. Norton Benjamin D. Baker 1250 Broadway, 27th floor New York, NY 10001 Tel. (212) 619-5400 jnorton@nfllp.com bbaker@nfllp.com

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 4 of 24 NYSCEF: 11/15/202

SUPREME COURT FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK NEW YORK COUNTY

ILISE HEITZNER, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Index No.:

Plaintiff,

-V-

NORTHWELL HEALTH, INC. and PERRY JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.,

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

Plaintiff Ilise Heitzner ("Plaintiff") brings this class action against defendants Northwell Health, Inc. ("Northwell") and Perry Johnson & Associates, Inc. ("PJ&A," and together with Northwell, "Defendants"), and alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by Plaintiff's attorneys.

### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. Plaintiff brings this class action against Defendants for their failure to properly secure and safeguard personally identifiable and financial information ("PII") and protected health information ("PHI") of Plaintiff and the Class members, including, without limitation: names, dates of birth, home addresses, medical record numbers, hospital account numbers, and clinical information such as the names of the treatment facility, the names of healthcare providers, admission diagnosis, and date(s) and time(s) of service.
- 2. Defendants are a nonprofit integrated healthcare network that is New York State's largest healthcare provider and a provider of certain transcription and dictation services.

SCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 5 of 24 NYSCEF: 11/15/202

3. Defendants are entrusted with an extensive amount of the Plaintiff's and the Class

members' PII and PHI.

4. By obtaining, collecting, using, and delivering a benefit from Plaintiff's and Class

members' PII and PHI, Defendants assumed legal and equitable duties to Plaintiff and the Class

members.

5. On or around March 27, 2023 to May 2, 2023, an intruder gained unauthorized

access to PJ&A's systems, accessed Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI, and exfiltrated

information from PJ&A's systems. Then, on or around April 7, 2023 to April 19, 2023, an intruder

gained unauthorized access to Northwell's systems, accessed Plaintiff's and the Class members'

PII and PHI, and exfiltrated information from Northwell's systems (together, the "Data Breach

Incidents").

6. The full extent of the types of sensitive personal information, the scope of the

breaches, and the root cause of the Data Breach Incidents is all within the exclusive control of

Defendants and their agents, counsel, and forensic security vendors at this phase of litigation.

7. Defendants did not notify Plaintiff and the Class members of the Data Breach

Incidents until November 3, 2023.

8. Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI that was acquired through the Data

Breach Incidents can be sold on the dark web. Hackers can access and then offer for sale the

unencrypted, unredacted PII and PHI to criminals. Plaintiff and the Class members face a lifetime

risk of identity theft, which is heightened here by the loss of Social Security numbers.

9. Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI was compromised due to

Defendants' negligent acts and omissions and the failure to protect Plaintiff's and the Class

members' PII and PHI.

- 2 -

4 of 21

rscer doc. no. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 6 of 24 Received hyscer: 11/15/202

10. Plaintiff and Class members continue to be at significant risk of identity theft and

various other forms of personal, social, and financial harm. The risk will remain for their respective

lifetimes.

11. Defendants disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and the Class members by

intentionally, willfully, recklessly, or negligently failing to take and implement adequate and

reasonable measures to ensure their PII and PHI was safeguarded, failing to take available steps to

prevent an unauthorized disclosure of data, and failing to follow applicable, required and

appropriate protocols, policies and procedures regarding the encryption of data, even for internal

use. As a result, the PII and PHI of Plaintiff and Class members was compromised through access

to and exfiltration by at least one unknown and unauthorized third party.

12. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of all persons whose PII and PHI was

compromised because of Defendants' failure to: (i) adequately protect their PII and PHI; (ii) warn

of Defendants' inadequate information security practices; and (iii) effectively secure equipment

and the database containing protected PII and PHI using reasonable and effective security

procedures free of vulnerabilities and incidents.

13. Defendants' conduct amounts to negligence and violates federal and state statutes.

14. Plaintiff and Class members have suffered actual and imminent injuries as a direct

result of the Data Breach Incidents, including: (i) theft of their PII and PHI; (ii) costs associated

with the detection and prevention of identity theft; (iii) costs associated with time spent and the

loss of productivity from taking time to address and attempt to ameliorate, mitigate, and deal with

the consequences of the Data Breach Incidents; (iv) invasion of privacy; (v) the emotional distress

and anguish, stress, and annoyance of responding to, and resulting from, the Data Breach Incidents;

(vi) the actual and/or imminent injury arising from actual and/or potential fraud and identity theft

- 3 -

5 of 21

posed by their personal data being placed in the hands of the ill-intentioned hackers and/or

criminals; (vii) damages to and diminution in value of their personal data entrusted to Defendants

with the mutual understanding that Defendants would safeguard Plaintiff's and Class members'

PII and PHI against theft and not allow access and misuse of their personal data by others; and

(viii) the continued risk to their PII and PHI, which remains in the possession of Defendants, and

which is subject to further breaches, so long as Defendants fails to undertake appropriate and

adequate measures to protect Plaintiff's and Class members' PII and PHI, and, at the very least,

are entitled to nominal damages.

15. Plaintiff and Class members have a continuing interest in ensuring that their

information is and remains safe, and they should be entitled to injunctive and other equitable relief.

**PARTIES** 

16. Plaintiff Ilise Heitzner is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a citizen and resident

of Westchester County, New York.

17. Defendant Northwell is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a New York

corporation with its principal place of business in Nassau County, New York.

18. Defendant PJ&A is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a foreign corporation with

its principal place of business in Troy, Michigan.

**FACTS** 

19. At the time of the Data Breach Incidents, Defendants maintained Plaintiff's and the

Class members' PII and PHI in their systems.

- 4 -

6 of 21

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-A) Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 8 of 24 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/15/202

20. By obtaining, collecting, and storing Plaintiff's and Class members' PII and PHI,

Defendants assumed legal and equitable duties and knew or should have known that they were

responsible for protecting Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII and PHI from disclosure.

21. Plaintiff and Class members relied on Defendants to keep their PII and PHI

confidential and securely maintained, to use this information for business purposes only, and to

make only authorized disclosures of this information.

22. Defendants had a duty to adopt reasonable measures to protect Plaintiff's and Class

members' PII and PHI from involuntary disclosure to third parties.

23. Prior to the Data Breach Incidents, Defendants should have: (i) encrypted or

tokenized the sensitive PII and PHI of Plaintiff and the Class members; (ii) deleted such PII and

PHI that they no longer had reason to maintain; (iii) eliminated the potential accessibility of the

PII and PHI from the internet and its website where such accessibility was not justified; and (iv)

otherwise reviewed and improved the security of its network system that contained the PII and

PHI.

24. Prior to the Data Breach Incidents, on information and belief, Defendants did not:

(i) encrypt or tokenize the sensitive PII and PHI of Plaintiff and the Class members; (ii) delete

such PII and PHI that they no longer had reason to maintain; (iii) eliminate the potential

accessibility of the PII and PHI from the internet and its website where such accessibility was not

justified; and (iv) otherwise review and improve the security of their network systems that

contained the PII and PHI.

25. On or around March 27, 2023 to May 2, 2023, an intruder gained unauthorized

access to PJ&A's systems, accessed Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI, and exfiltrated

information from PJ&A's systems.

- 5 -

SCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07723 Page 9 of 24 NYSCEF: 11/15/202

26. On or around April 7, 2023 to April 19, 2023, an intruder gained unauthorized

access to Northwell's systems, accessed Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI, and

exfiltrated information from Northwell's systems.

27. On or about November 3, 2023, Defendants mailed Plaintiff and the Class members

a form notice attempting to minimize the Data Breach Event, while admitting that sensitive PII

and PHI had been compromised and stolen.

28. Contrary to the self-serving narrative in Defendants' form notice, Plaintiff's and

Class members' unencrypted information may end up for sale on the dark web and/or fall into the

hands of companies that will use the detailed PII and PHI for targeted marketing without their

approval.

29. Defendants failed to use reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate

to the nature of the sensitive, unencrypted information it was maintaining for Plaintiff and the

Class members.

30. Plaintiff and the Class members have taken reasonable steps to maintain the

confidentiality of their PII and PHI, relied on Defendants to keep their PII and PHI confidential

and securely maintained, to use this information for business purposes only, and to make only

authorized disclosures of this information.

31. Defendants could have prevented the Data Breach Incidents by properly securing

and encrypting Plaintiff's and Class members' PII and PHI, or Defendants could have destroyed

the data, especially old data from former inquiries and/or customers that Defendants had no legal

right or responsibility to retain.

FILED: NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 11/15/2023 01:24 PM INDEX NO. 161199/2023 Page 10 of 24 PM PAGE 12/07/23 PAGE 11/15/2023

32. Defendants' negligence in safeguarding Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI is exacerbated by the repeated warnings and alerts directed to protecting and securing sensitive data, especially in the financial sector.

33. Despite the prevalence of public announcements and knowledge of data breach and data security compromises, Defendants failed to take appropriate steps to protect the PII and PHI of Plaintiff and the Class members from being compromised.

34. The ramifications of Defendants' failure to keep secure Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI are long-lasting and severe. Once PII and PHI is stolen, fraudulent use of that information and damage to victims may continue for years.

- 35. The PII and PHI of Plaintiff and the Class members was stolen to engage in identity theft and/or to sell it to criminals who will purchase the PII and PHI for that purpose.
- 36. Moreover, there may be a time lag between when harm occurs versus when it is discovered, and also between when PII and PHI is stolen and when it is used.
- 37. At all relevant times, Defendants knew, or reasonably should have known, of the importance of safeguarding Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI, and of the foreseeable consequences that would occur if Defendants' data security system was breached, including, specifically, the significant costs that would be imposed on Plaintiff and the Class members as a result of a breach.
- 38. Plaintiff and Class members now face years of constant surveillance of their financial and personal records, monitoring, and loss of rights.
- 39. Plaintiff and Class members are incurring and will continue to incur such damages in addition to any fraudulent use of their PII and PHI.

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 11 of 24 NYSCEF: 11/15/202

40. Defendants were, or should have been, fully aware of the unique type and the

significant volume of data on Defendants' networks, potentially amounting to millions of

individuals' detailed and confidential personal information and thus, the significant number of

individuals who would be harmed by the exposure of the unencrypted data.

41. The injuries to Plaintiff and the Class members were directly and proximately

caused by Defendants' failure to implement or maintain adequate data security measures for the

Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI.

42. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer a substantial risk of imminent

identity, financial, and health fraud and theft; emotional anguish and distress resulting from the

Data Breach Incidents, including emotional stress and damages about the years of identity fraud

Plaintiff faces; and increased time spent reviewing financial statements and credit reports to

determine whether there has been fraudulent activity on any of their accounts.

43. Plaintiff has a continuing interest in ensuring that her PII and PHI, which, upon

information and belief, remains backed up in Defendants' possession, is protected and safeguarded

from future breaches.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

### **Proposed Class**

44. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit as a class action on behalf of herself individually and

on behalf of all other similarly situated persons as a class action pursuant to Article 9 of the CPLR.

45. The "Class" that Plaintiff seeks to represent is defined as:

All persons whose PII and/or PHI was accessed and/or exfiltrated during the Data Breach Incidents.

46. Defendants and their employees or agents are excluded from the Class.

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 12 of 24 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/15/202

**Numerosity** 

47. The Data Breach Incidents have affected as many as 3.9 million people.

48. The members of the Class, therefore, are believed to be so numerous that joinder of

all members is impracticable.

49. Identification of the Class members is a matter capable of ministerial determination

from Defendants' records.

**Common Questions of Law and Fact** 

50. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to the Class which

predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class.

51. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are: (i) whether and to

what extent Defendants had a duty to protect the PII and PHI Plaintiff and Class members; (ii)

whether Defendants failed to adequately safeguard the PII and PHI of Plaintiff and Class members;

(iii) when Defendants actually learned of the Data Breach Incidents; (iv) whether Defendants

adequately, promptly, and accurately informed Plaintiff and Class members that their PII and PHI

had been compromised; (v) whether Defendants failed to implement and maintain reasonable

security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature and scope of the information

compromised in the Data Breach Incidents; (vi) whether Defendants adequately addressed and

fixed the vulnerabilities which permitted the Data Breach Incidents to occur; (vii) whether Plaintiff

and the Class members are entitled to actual, consequential, and/or nominal damages as a result of

Defendants' wrongful conduct; (viii) whether Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to

restitution as a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct; and (ix) whether Plaintiff and Class

members are entitled to injunctive relief to redress the imminent and currently ongoing harm faced

as a result of the Data Breach Incidents.

- 9 -

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 13 of 24
RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/15/202

52. The common questions in this case are capable of having common answers.

Plaintiff and the Class members will have identical claims capable of being efficiently adjudicated

and administered in this case.

**Typicality** 

53. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members, as they are all

based on the same factual and legal theories.

**Protecting the Interests of the Class Members** 

54. Plaintiff is a representative who will fully and adequately assert and protect the

interests of the Class and have retained competent counsel. Accordingly, Plaintiff is an adequate

representative and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.

**Superiority** 

55. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient

adjudication of this lawsuit because individual litigation of the claims of all members of the Class

is economically unfeasible and procedurally impracticable.

56. While the aggregate damages sustained by the Class are in the millions of dollars,

the individual damages incurred by each member of the Class resulting from Defendants' wrongful

conduct are too small to warrant the expense of individual lawsuits.

57. The likelihood of individual Class members prosecuting their own separate claims

is remote, and, even if every member of the Class could afford individual litigation, the court

system would be unduly burdened by individual litigation of such cases.

58. The prosecution of separate actions by members of the Class would create a risk of

establishing inconsistent rulings and/or incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants. For

- 10 -

example, one court might enjoin Defendants from performing the challenged acts, whereas another may not.

59. Additionally, individual actions may be dispositive of the interests of the Class, although certain class members are not parties to such actions.

# (On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)

- 60. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-59 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 61. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of herself and the Class.
- 62. Defendants collected, stored, used, and benefited from the non-public PII and PHI of Plaintiff and Class members in the procurement and provision of medical services.
- 63. Defendants had full knowledge of the sensitivity of the PII and PHI and the types of harm that Plaintiff and Class members could and would suffer if the PII and PHI were wrongfully disclosed.
- 64. By collecting, storing, and using Plaintiff's and Class members' PII and PHI, Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff and Class members to exercise reasonable care in obtaining, securing, deleting, protecting, and safeguarding the sensitive PII and PHI.
- 65. Defendants owed a duty to prevent the PII and PHI it received from being compromised, lost, stolen, accessed, and misused by unauthorized persons.
- 66. Defendants were required to prevent foreseeable harm to Plaintiff and Class members, and therefore had a duty to take adequate and reasonable steps to safeguard their sensitive PII and PHI from unauthorized release or theft.
- 67. This duty included: (i) designing, maintaining, and testing its data security systems, data storage architecture, and data security protocols to ensure Plaintiff's and Class members' PII and PHI in its possession was adequately secured and protected; (ii) implementing processes that

TYSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 15 of 24 NYSCEF: 11

would detect an unauthorized breach of its security systems and data storage architecture in a

timely and adequate manner; (iii) timely acting on all warnings and alerts, including public

information, regarding its security vulnerabilities and potential compromise of the PII and PHI of

Plaintiff and Class members; and (iv) maintaining data security measurers consistent with industry

standards and applicable federal and state laws and other requirements.

68. Defendants had a common law duty to prevent foreseeable harm to Plaintiff and

Class members. The duty existed because Plaintiff and Class members were the foreseeable and

probable victims of any inadequate security practices of Defendants in its collection, storage, and

use of PII and PHI from Plaintiff and Class members.

69. In fact, not only was it foreseeable that Plaintiff and Class members would be

harmed by the failure to protect their PII and PHI because malicious actors routinely attempt to

steal such information for use in nefarious purposes, but Defendants also knew that it was more

likely than not Plaintiff and Class members would be harmed as a result.

70. Defendants' duties to use adequate and reasonable security measures also arose as

a result of the special relationship that existed between them, on the one hand, and Plaintiff and

Class members, on the other hand. This special relationship arose because Defendants collected,

stored, and used the PII and PHI of Plaintiff and Class members for the procurement and provision

of health services for Plaintiff and Class members.

71. Defendants alone could have ensured that their security systems and data storage

architecture were sufficient to prevent or minimize the Data Breach Incidents.

72. Additionally, the policy of preventing future harm weighs in favor of finding a

special relationship between Defendants and Plaintiff and Class members. If companies are not

held accountable for failing to take adequate and reasonable security measures to protect the

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 16 of 24 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/15/202

sensitive PII and PHI in their possession, they will not take the steps that are necessary to protect

against future security breaches.

73. The injuries suffered by Plaintiff and Class members were proximately and directly

caused by Defendants' failure to follow reasonable, industry standard security measures to protect

Plaintiff's and Class members' PII and PHI.

74. When individuals have their personal information stolen, they are at substantial risk

for imminent identity theft, and need to take steps to protect themselves, including, for example,

utilizing credit monitoring services and purchasing or obtaining credit reports to protect

themselves from identity theft.

75. If Defendants had implemented the requisite, industry standard security measures

and exercised adequate and reasonable care, data thieves would not have been able to take the PII

and PHI of Plaintiff and Class members.

76. Defendants breached these duties through the conduct alleged herein by, including

without limitation: (i) failing to protect the PII and PHI in its possession; (ii) failing to maintain

adequate computer systems and allowing unauthorized access to and exfiltration of Plaintiff's and

Class members' PII and PHI; (iii) failing to disclose the material fact that Defendants' computer

systems and data security practices were inadequate to safeguard the PII and PHI in its possession

from theft; and (iv) failing to disclose in a timely and accurate manner to Plaintiff and Class

members the material fact of the Data Breach Incidents.

77. But for Defendants' wrongful and negligent breach of their duties owed to Plaintiff

and Class members, their PII and PHI would not have been compromised.

78. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to exercise adequate and

reasonable care and use commercially adequate and reasonable security measures, the PII and PHI

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 17 of 24 NYSCEF: 11/15/202

of Plaintiff and Class members were accessed by ill-intentioned individuals who could and will

use the information to commit identity or financial fraud.

79. Plaintiff and Class members face the imminent, certainly impending, and

substantially heightened risk of identity theft, fraud, and further misuse of their personal data.

80. There is a temporal and close causal connection between Defendants' failure to

implement security measures to protect the PII and PHI of current and former patients and the

harm suffered, or risk of imminent harm suffered, by Plaintiff and Class Members.

81. It was foreseeable that Defendants' failure to exercise reasonable care to safeguard

the PII and PHI in its possession or control would lead to one or more types of injury to Plaintiff

and Class members, and the Data Breach Incidents were foreseeable given the known, high

frequency of cyberattacks and data breaches in the healthcare industry.

82. Plaintiff and Class members were the foreseeable and probable victims of any

inadequate security practices and procedures. Defendants knew of or should have known of the

inherent risks in collecting and storing PII and PHI, the critical importance of providing adequate

security of PII and PHI, the current cyber scams being perpetrated on PII and PHI, and that they

had inadequate protocols, including security protocols in place to secure the PII and PHI of

Plaintiff and Class Members.

83. Defendants' own conduct created the foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiff and Class

members. Defendants' misconduct included their failure to take the steps and opportunities to

prevent the Data Breach Incidents and their failure to comply with industry standards for the

safekeeping and encrypted authorized disclosure of the PII and PHI of Plaintiff and Class

members.

- 14 -

84. Plaintiff and Class members have no ability to protect their PII and PHI that was and is in Defendants' possession. Defendants alone were and are in a position to protect against the harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class members as a result of the Data Breach Incidents.

85. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence as alleged above, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, will suffer, or are at increased risk of suffering: (i) the compromise, publication, theft and/or unauthorized use of their PII and PHI; (ii) unauthorized use and misuse of their PII and PHI; (iii) the loss of the opportunity to control how their PII and PHI are used; (iv) out-of-pocket costs associated with the prevention, detection, recovery and remediation from identity theft or fraud; (v) lost opportunity costs and lost wages and time associated with efforts expended and the loss of productivity from addressing and attempting to mitigate the actual and future consequences of the Data Breach Incidents, including but not limited to efforts spent researching how to prevent, detect, contest and recover from identity theft and fraud; (vi) the imminent and certain impending injury flowing from potential fraud and identity theft posed by their PII and PHI being placed in the hands of criminals; (vii) the continued risk to their PII and PHI that is subject to further breaches so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate measures to protect the PII and PHI in Defendants' possession; (viii) current and future costs in terms of time, effort and money that will be expended to prevent, detect, contest, remediate and repair the impact of the Data Breach Incident for the remainder of the lives of Plaintiff and Class members; (ix) loss of privacy; and (x) emotional distress and anguish related to the years of potential identity theft they face.

86. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered, and continue to suffer, damages arising from the Data Breach Incidents

SCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 19 of 24 NYSCEF: 11/15/202

as described herein and are entitled to compensatory, consequential, and punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for the following relief:

- a) an Order certifying this case as a class action on behalf of the Class as defined above,
   and appointing Plaintiff as the representative of the Class and Plaintiff's counsel as
   Class Counsel;
- b) equitable relief enjoining Defendants from engaging in the wrongful conduct complained of herein pertaining to the misuse and/or disclosure of Plaintiff's and the Class members' PII and PHI, and from refusing to issue prompt, complete, and accurate disclosures to Plaintiff and the Class members;
- c) injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiff and Class members, including but not limited to an Order: (i) requiring Defendants to protect, including through encryption, all data collected through the course of its business in accordance with all applicable regulations, industry standards, and federal, state or local laws; (ii) requiring Defendants to delete, destroy, and purge the PII and PHI of Plaintiff and Class members unless Defendants can provide to the Court reasonable justification for the retention and use of such information when weighed against the privacy interests of Plaintiff and Class members; (iii) requiring Defendants to implement and maintain a comprehensive Information Security Program designed to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the personal identifying information of Plaintiff' and Class member's PII; (iv) prohibiting Defendants from maintaining

Plaintiff's and Class members' PII on a cloud-based database; (v) requiring Defendants to engage independent third-party security auditors/penetration testers as well as internal security personnel to conduct testing, including simulated attacks, penetration tests, and audits on Defendants' systems on a periodic basis, and ordering Defendants to promptly correct any problems or issues detected by such third-party security auditors; (vi) requiring Defendants to engage independent third-party security auditors and internal personnel to run automated security monitoring; (vii) requiring Defendants to audit, test, and train its security personnel regarding any new or modified procedures; (viii) requiring Defendants to segment data by, among other things, creating firewalls and access controls so that if one area of Defendants' network is compromised, hackers cannot gain access to other portions of Defendants' systems; (ix) requiring Defendants to conduct regular database scanning and securing checks; (x) requiring Defendants to establish an information security training program that includes at least annual information security training for all employees, with additional training to be provided as appropriate based upon the employees' respective responsibilities with handling personal identifying information, as well as protecting the personal identifying information of Plaintiff and Class members; (xi) requiring Defendants to routinely and continually conduct internal training and education, and on an annual basis to inform internal security personnel how to identify and contain a breach when it occurs and what to do in response to a breach; (xii) requiring Defendants to implement systems of tests to assess their respective employees' knowledge of the education programs discussed in the preceding subparagraphs, as well as randomly and periodically testing employees compliance with Defendants' policies, programs, and systems for protecting

YSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 21 of 24 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/15/202

personal identifying information; (xiii) requiring Defendants to implement, maintain, regularly review, and revise as necessary a threat management program designed to appropriately monitor Defendants' information networks for threats, both internal and external, and assess whether monitoring tools are appropriately configured, tested, and updated; (xiv) requiring Defendants to meaningfully educate all Class members about the threats that they face as a result of the loss of their confidential personal identifying information to third parties, as well as the steps affected individuals must take to protect themselves; (xv) requiring Defendants to implement logging and monitoring programs sufficient to track traffic to and from Defendants' servers; and (xvi) for a period of 10 years, appointing a qualified and independent third-party assessor to conduct attestation on an annual basis to evaluate Defendants' compliance with the terms of the Court's final judgment, to provide such report to the Court and to counsel for the class, and to report any deficiencies with compliance of the Court's final judgment;

- d) for an award of damages, including actual, consequential, and nominal damages, as allowed by law in an amount to be determined;
- e) for an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as allowed by law;
- f) for prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded; and
- g) such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

## **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, hereby demands a trial by jury.

FILED: NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 11/15/2023 01:24 PM
NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 22 of 24 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/15/2023

Dated: New York, New York November 15, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

### **NEWMAN FERRARA LLP**

/s/ Jeffrey M. Norton
Jeffrey M. Norton
Benjamin D. Baker
1250 Broadway, 27th Floor
New York, New York 10001
(212) 619-5400
jnorton@nfllp.com
bbaker@nfllp.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff and Proposed Class

ryscer doc. No. 4 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 23 of 24 Nyscer: 12/05/202

# SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK NEW YORK COUNTY

ILISE HEITZNER, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-v-

NORTHWELL HEALTH, INC. and PERRY JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.,

Defendants.

Index No. 161199/2023

STIPULATION EXTENDING TIME TO ANSWER THE COMPLAINT

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2023, Plaintiff Ilise Heitzner ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, filed a Summons and Complaint initiating the above-captioned action (the "Complaint");

WHEREAS, Defendant Northwell Health, Inc.'s ("Northwell") deadline to respond to the Complaint is December 18, 2023;

WHEREAS, on November 28, 2023, counsel for Plaintiff and Defendant met and conferred and agreed to modify Northwell's deadline to respond to the Complaint;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties hereto through their undersigned counsel that the time for Defendant to respond to the Complaint in this action is hereby extended to and including January 29, 2024.

///

YSCEF DOC. NO. 4 Case 1:23-cv-10694-AT Document 1-1 Filed 12/07/23 Page 24 of 24 NYSCEF: 12/05/2023

Dated: December 5, 2023

By: /s/ Andrew B. Cashmore

William L. Roberts (pro hac vice forthcoming) Kathryn E. Caldwell (pro hac vice forthcoming) Andrew B. Cashmore

**ROPES & GRAY LLP** 

Prudential Tower 800 Boylston Street Boston, Massachusetts 02199-3600 Phone: (617) 951-7000 Fax: (617) 951-7050 william.roberts@ropesgray.com

kathryn.caldwell@ropesgray.com andrew.cashmore@ropesgray.com

Glen J. Dalakian II (pro hac vice forthcoming) ROPES & GRAY LLP

1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036-8704

Phone: (212) 596-9000 Fax: (212) 596-9090

glen.dalakian@ropesgray.com

Counsel for Defendant Northwell Health, Inc.

By: /s/ Benjamin D. Baker

Benjamin D. Baker **NEWMAN FERRARA LLP** 1250 Broadway, 27th Floor New York, New York 10001 (212) 619-5400 bbaker@nfllp.com

Counsel for Plaintiff and the Putative Class